AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 Attorney Docket No.: Q86396

Application No.: 10/537,698

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A natural rubber latex in which glucans contained in the

latex are decomposed, wherein enzyme treatment with an α -amylase α -glucan decomposing

enzyme and/or a cellulase β -glucan decomposing enzyme is carried out for the decomposition of

the glucans, and without a protease enzyme.

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 1, wherein

an addition amount of the α -amylase α -glucan decomposing enzyme-falls in a range of 0.005 to

0.5 mass part per 100 mass parts of the latex solid component.

5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 1, wherein

an addition amount of the β -glucan decomposing enzymecellulase falls in a range of 0.005 to 0.5

mass part per 100 mass parts of the latex solid component.

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7. (previously presented): The natural rubber latex as described in claim-1, wherein treatment with a surfactant is carried out in addition to the enzyme treatment.

- 8. (previously presented): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 1, wherein the enzyme treatment is carried out at a temperature of 70°C or lower.
- 9. (currently amended): A natural rubber obtained from a natural rubber latex in which glucans contained in the latex are decomposed, wherein enzyme treatment with an α-amylaseα-glucan decomposing enzyme and/or a cellulaseβ-glucan decomposing enzyme is carried out for the decomposition of the glucans, and without a protease enzyme.
 - 10. (original): A rubber composition using the natural rubber as described in claim 9.
- 11. (original): A tire characterized by using the rubber composition as described in claim 10.
- 12. (currently amended): A production process for a natural rubber, wherein it is produced by subjecting a natural rubber latex to enzyme treatment with an α -amylase α -glucan decomposing enzyme and/or a β -glucan decomposing enzymecellulase to decompose glucans contained therein, and without a protease enzyme.

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13. (original): The production process for a natural rubber as described in claim 12, wherein the enzyme treatment is carried out at a temperature of 70°C or lower.

14. (previously presented): The production process for a natural rubber as described in claim 12, wherein treatment with a surfactant is carried out in addition to the enzyme treatment.

15.-16. (canceled).

17-19. (canceled).

20. (previously presented): The production process for a natural rubber as described in claim 13, wherein treatment with a surfactant is carried out in addition to the enzyme treatment.